

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY
Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science

Minutes of Meeting 91-4
of the
Engineering and Computer Science Faculty Council
held
Friday, September 20, 1991

Present: Professors M.N.S. Swamy (Chair), M.O. Ahmad, V.S. Alagar, B. Ashtakala, C. Bédard, A. Elhakeem, T. Fancott, P.P. Fazio, F.D. Hamblin, A.M. Hanna, H.J. McQueen, M.O.M. Osman, O.A. Pekau, R. Shinghal, K. Thulasiraman, G.D. Xistris, P.D. Ziogas; Prof. B. Mackay, (Assoc. Vice Rector, Academic, Curriculum & Planning), T. Swift (Registrar's Rep.), Z. Jirkovski (Library), J. Lyons (ECSGA); P.M. Bourassa (Secretary).

Absent with
apology: Professors A.E. Blach, D. Feldman, T. Stathopoulos, M. Kusy (Assoc. Dean, Graduate Studies).

Visitors: Mr. C. Brown (Liaison); Prof. R.B. Bhat.

1. Adoption of Agenda

Motion 91-4-1 Council unanimously approved the published agenda.

2. Adoption of the Minutes of Meeting 91-3

Motion 91-4-2 A motion to approve the minutes of Meeting 91-3 was unanimously adopted.

3. Chairman's Remarks

Dr. Swamy said that a visiting team from NSERC is presently at Concordia University. He also said that a document on the School of Graduate Studies will be presented later.

4. Report of the Senate Ad Hoc Committee on Degree Nomenclature (Doc. US-91-2-D17 & D18)

Dr. Swamy said that since Dr. R.B. Bhat served in the above committee, he was invited to provide additional information, if required, and to answer questions from Council members.

Dr. Fazio asked whether any feedback has been received from students. Dr. Swamy replied that at the Senate meeting, it was said that the Ad Hoc Committee's report would be printed in the Thursday Report or The Link or The Concordia in early September, but nothing seems to have been published, so that students have not been officially informed.

However, there was an eloquent presentation at Senate by students from the Faculty of Commerce and Administration.

Dr. Fazio reported that he had feedback from some students and they were very much against the proposed nomenclature. They want the option to choose the existing terminology. He added that the Centre for Building Studies is very sensitive to the recruiting issue and that the proposed changes would work against the students, particularly women students.

Dr. McQueen asked whether graduating students would have the choice between the existing and proposed degrees. Dr. Swamy answered that students now enrolled would have the option but that the new students would not. Dr. McQueen then said that many students are opposed to the change, including women, and that this would not be a good idea if it is forced upon the students.

Dr. Osman asked whether the Committee called in a professional linguist for advice.

Dr. Bhat answered that it did not seek such advice.

Prof. MacKay asked whether experts in the matter of language and sexism might include not only linguistic scholars but also those women in the universities who feel excluded and invisibilized by male-only terms.

Ms. Jirkovsky suggested that the Library could provide some help in research. She also said that this is a matter of utmost importance to students and that their voice should be heard.

Prof. Hamblin said that he would feel more comfortable if all faculty members were consulted. He asked whether this subject has been discussed in Departments, and all answers were negative.

Dr. Osman suggested that, in addition to getting professional advice on linguistics, the Departments and the student associations should be consulted.

Prof. MacKay said that if a professor was adamantly opposed to the changes in degree nomenclature, then his leading of a discussion with students might skew the results of the discussion.

With the exception of Prof. McQueen whose courses deal with social issues, the consensus was that it would be inappropriate to spend class time on such a discussion.

Mr. Lyons said that ECSGA was never formally approached for input. Students only found out from an article in The Link that this was being discussed. Subsequently, they have never been advised of the Ad Hoc Committee's recommendation.

Dr. Ashtakala made the observation that our degree nomenclature should be consistent with that of other universities in North America.

Dr. Fazio suggested that both titles be adopted for a period of some five to ten years, so as not to infringe on the rights of students who prefer the present titles.

Dr. Swamy then summarized the discussion and said that a consensus has developed around the following:

- a) any change in degree nomenclature should not be treated lightly;
- b) there should be proper debate;
- c) in spite of a statement at Senate that the proposal would appear early in September in the Thursday Report, this has not been done.

Dr. Xistris then said that he is totally opposed to the change. He suggested that the document be tabled but Dr. Swamy said that this would not prevent Senate from adopting it, and that he prefers to face the proposal head-on. However, additional time is required in order to consult students and Departments.

After some discussion as to exactly how much time is required, the following motion was moved and seconded.

Motion 91-4-3 "This Council recommends:
THAT Senate ensure proper University-wide debate by publication of Document US-91-2-D18 in the Thursday Report;
THAT Senate defer debate on the subject until its meeting of February 1992, to allow time for full consideration by the academic bodies reporting to it."

This motion was adopted by a unanimous vote.

The following motion was also submitted:

Motion 91-4-4 This Council resolves that Documents US-91-2-D17 and US-91-2-D18 be referred to Departments for immediate discussion in Department meetings and reporting back to Council by December.

Motion 91-4-4 was adopted by a vote of 16 in favour, none opposed and one abstention.

5. Graduate Curriculum Changes

These were not ready for consideration by Council at this time and will be submitted at the next Council meeting.

6. Appointment of Tenure Elections Committee

Professors O. Moselhi, A. Hanna and G.H. Vatistas were elected by acclamation as the three members of the Tenure Elections Committee for a term extending from June 1, 1991 to May 31, 1992. Dr. Moselhi was elected Chair of the Committee.

Motion 91-4-5 Council also unanimously adopted a motion stipulating that the Tenure Elections Committee shall oversee all other elections within the Faculty.

7. Adjournment

Motion 91-4-6 Council unanimously adopted a motion to adjourn.